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C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 000116

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FOR AF/S

E.O. 12958: DECL: 3/5/2017
TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PGOV](#) [LT](#)
SUBJECT: IRISH EMBASSY RELOCATES EMPLOYEE

REF: (A) MASERU 107 (B) MASERU 94

CLASSIFIED BY: June Carter Perry, Ambassador, EXEC , STATE.
REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

[11](#). (C) Following the February 27 armed attack on the ministerial property used by Harvard's Partners-In-Health (PIH) couple (Refs A and B), the Irish Embassy has moved one of its permanent staff from a similar residence to a hotel. Ambassador Paddy Fay informed U.S. Ambassador last week that he had relocated one of his officers from a house owned by Finance Minister Timothy Thahane to the Lesotho Sun, despite the officer's objections, out of fear that other ministerial residences could be targeted by discontented losing opposition parties or hired gunmen.

[12](#). (C) Embassy Maseru has reviewed all properties of USG personnel and post's Management/Security Officer has confirmed that no official American staff are occupying such houses. PIH staff were in a house owned by Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment Nts'inyi (who was reappointed to her position March 2).

[13](#). (C) PIH Country Director met with Ambassador and DCM March [15](#). The PIH couple present during the grenade/gun assault are working out of the Clinton Foundation office and living in a hotel, but will travel to the U.S. for two weeks of counseling and rest. Both English-language newspapers in Lesotho carried the attack on their front pages March 2, and on the same day, Lesotho's Police Commissioner requested a meeting with Ambassador to occur this week.

PERRY